

Claims:

1) A particulate composition comprising;

- a) at least 50% of dioleoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine (DOPE); and
- b) 1 to 50% of Polysorbate 80 (P80),

wherein all parts are by weight relative to the sum of the weights of a+b and wherein the composition comprises non-lamellar particles or forms non-lamellar particles when contacted with an aqueous fluid.

2) A particulate composition comprising an amphiphilic carrier formulation consisting of;

- a) at least 50% of dioleoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine (DOPE);
- b) 1 to 50% of Polysorbate 80 (P80);
- c) optionally a solvent;

wherein all parts are by weight relative to the sum of the weights of a+b and wherein the composition comprises non-lamellar particles or forms non-lamellar particles when contacted with an aqueous fluid and wherein the carrier formulation exhibits no acute toxicity in rats at a level of up to at least 1000 mg of components a+b per kg of subject.

3) A particulate composition comprising an amphiphilic carrier formulation consisting of;

- a) at least 50% of dioleoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine (DOPE);
- b) 1 to 50% of Polysorbate 80 (P80);
- c) optionally a solvent;

wherein all parts are by weight relative to the sum of the weights of a+b and wherein the composition comprises non-lamellar particles or forms non-lamellar particles when contacted with an aqueous fluid and wherein the carrier formulation

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exhibits no pyrogenicity when dosed parenterally in rabbits at a level of up to at least 5 ml of a 5% dispersion of components a+b per kg of subject.

4) A composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 additionally comprising at least one active agent.

5) A composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 comprising at least 50% non-lamellar particles.

6) A composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 which forms at least 50% non-lamellar particles upon contact with an aqueous fluid.

7) A composition as claimed in claim 6 wherein said aqueous fluid is a body fluid.

8) A composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein said particles have an average particle size of 10 to 150 μm .

9) A composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein said particles are colloidal.

10) A composition as claimed in claim 9 wherein said particles are stable in terms of phase behaviour and particle size to storage at room temperature for at least 10 days.

11) A composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 in the form of a dry powder.

12) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11.

13) A formulation as claimed in claim 12 further comprising at least one pharmaceutically tolerable carrier or excipient.